

Raymond UMC

Church Newsletter of Upcoming Events, Reminders and Happenings

Beloved Church –

What does it mean to live a fruitful life? Our lives can be full of many things. We can fill our days with material stuff, busyness, anxiety, good works, challenges and unlimited endeavors. But are we being fruitful? Are we being changed from the inside out? How are you filling your heart, your mind, and your time? Are we planting seeds that will produce fruit in a hungry world? What can we do to be more fruitful, faithful followers of Jesus Christ?

On July 22 we started a new sermon series based on the book “Five Practices of Fruitful Living” by Robert Schnase (a UMC Bishop). I hope that you will prayerfully join us in listening for how God wants to enrich our individual lives so that we can become disciples who are committed to fruitfulness in our homes, and in our communities.

I encourage you to pray this prayer often during the next 7 weeks to ask God to bless this time of study: *Holy God – Thank you for your love. We open our hearts to receive Your love, and we open our minds to new ways of proclaiming our love for You. Help us grow in Your grace. Help us show Your love to all people with our words and deeds. Holy Spirit, create in us a deeper understanding of how we can joyfully live out our faith for Your glory. Help us be increasingly fruitful as your disciples. In Jesus’ name we pray – Amen.*

Each week we will have verses to focus on, memorize and congregational prayers to pray. The foundational memory verse for this series is found in 1 John 4:19 -¹⁹ “We love because God first loved us.” Faith and fruitfulness begin with this basic yet profound understanding. In God’s love all things are all possible and each and every spiritual seed has the potential to yield abundant opportunities for fruitfulness.

Join us to listen, learn and lean into new opportunities to share God’s love with all people.

In Joy and Peace – Pastor Sara

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Upcoming Sermon Schedule:

July 22 - Receiving God's Love – The Practice of Radical Hospitality – 1 John 4:19

July 29 – Loving God in Return – The Practice of Passionate Worship - Luke 10:27

August 5 – Growing in Grace – The Practice of Intentional Faith Development – Hebrews 10:24-25

August 12 - Pam Marshall Preaches – “A Plea for Fishing” - Mark 1:14-20

August 19 – Loving and Serving Others – The Practice of Risk-Taking Mission and Service – Matthew 16:24-25

August 26 – The Grace of Giving – The Practice of Extravagant Generosity – 2 Corinthians 9:11

September 2 – Fruitful Living and Offering God's Love – 1 Peter 3:15

September 9 – We Begin Journeying through the Narrative Lectionary - The Narrative Lectionary is a reading plan that is structured to focus on the overall narrative of the Bible from Genesis through Jesus life. Join us as we journey through scripture to learn from the stories of our faith about our amazing God.

FALL BIBLE STUDY

Join us for our fall Bible Study on the Book of Philippians. Pastor Sara is writing a 6 week study on this short and empowering text from the Apostle Paul. As the Apostle Paul writes to the Church of Philippi, there are discoveries of discipleship to be made that are beautifully relevant for us today. While prayerfully studying this letter we can be encouraged and be encouragers to “advance the gospel” (1:12), to proclaim Christ in every possible way (1:18), and to be imitators of Jesus Christ for the Glory of God and for the love of all neighbors. This call to imitation compels us to new or renewed awareness of the joy of serving God in community. That is discipleship - to know Christ so that we may imitate Christ and show Christ to community!

Join us on Tuesdays beginning September 25th at 9:30 a.m. or at 7:00 p.m. for a time of study, prayers and fellowship. All are invited! Bring your Bibles!

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

Mark your calendars! Our Ice Cream Social will be held on August 17th. This fundraiser will generate funds to help pay for the new church furnaces. Prior to the 17th, we will be asking (begging) for donations of food items, especially homemade pies. We will be in need of many helping hands as well. Any questions or if you would like to help, please contact Ginny Sparks or Jean Thornton.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE

The RUMC Women's Circle is a new ministry of our church whose focus is on learning and serving. We meet the 3rd Monday of each month. It is open to ladies of all ages of the church, community, family members, friends, and anyone who would like to attend.

In just a few short months, we have accomplished much, and we look forward to where the Lord will continue to lead us next.

Our first act of serving was providing dinner for Christ's pantry which we plan to do again in September. Additionally, we have and continue to support New Life Pregnancy Resource Centers and the Hope Center. Already we have donated 48 needed items to New Path (sippy cups, baby bottles, baby wipes, and baby wash). As for the Hope Center, we have already helped serve one of their weekly dinner meals and provided 21 shower and lunch bags for the homeless. One of our regular ways to serve is to send cards each month to those who are ill or need our support in some way. These have been sent to both church folk and others who need to know we love and pray/think about them.

We also spend time "learning' each month. Currently, Vickie Ash is leading our short Bible Study titled "Women of the Bible." This includes both well known as well as some lesser known women. Prayer is also an important part.

Women's Circle did not meet in June or July, but will resume on Monday, August 20 @ 7:00 PM @ the church. Our Bible Study will continue. We will be making plans for Christ's Pantry dinner in September and continue to bring shower and food bags for the Hope Center to give to the homeless. If you are a lady or know someone who might be interested in learning and serving for the Lord, please plan to join us then. We hope to see you there.

NEW FLAG POLE:

Dick Sparks served in the Army during the Vietnam War. He has always been very patriotic. When Pastor Doug was serving at our Church, Dick asked him and the trustees about putting up a flag pole. With approval from them, Dick put a flag pole holder on one of the posts at the front entrance to the Church. This worked for several years, although we had problems with the flag blowing up and getting stuck in the gutter or it got wrapped around the flag pole. When it got stuck in the gutter it got torn.

A few months ago Dick began talking about the need for a flag pole that was set away from the Church, so the flag no longer got stuck in the gutter or wrapped all around the pole. He spoke with the Trustees and they liked the idea. He began looking locally to buy the pole, but couldn't find the telescoping flag pole that he wanted, so an online search began. We were happy to find the telescoping flag pole that Dick wanted and were pleased that it was made in the USA. The pole was ordered along with a solar light for the flag pole so there would be a light shining on the flag.

Galen Ash and Brent George helped Dick with setting the pole in concrete along with adding the solar light and the flag.



MISSIONS SCHEDULE:**August Dates:**

Missions Meeting – no meeting in August

Community & Senior Lunch – Tuesday, August 14th @ noon

Christ's Pantry – Thursday, August 16th @ 6:00 p.m.

September Dates:

Missions Meeting – Tuesday, September 4th at 6:30 p.m. (note date change because of Labor Day Holiday)

Community & Senior Lunch – Tuesday, September 11th @ noon

Christ's Pantry – Thursday, September 20th @ 6:00 p.m.

Community & Senior Lunch

Come join us for our Community & Senior Lunch. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at noon for lunch, fellowship, and entertainment. Bring a friend and as always there is no charge.

Christ's Pantry

Christ's Pantry is the third Thursday of each month from 6 – 7 p.m. We help neighbors by providing food and personal needs items and also serve a hot meal. Thank you to all that donate your time and/or items to Christ's Pantry it is very much appreciated. We gratefully accept food and personal needs donations. Here are a few items we are most in need of: canned chili, spaghetti sauce, shampoo, and conditioner. If you would like to help out with an upcoming Christ's Pantry please see Heather Holland for additional information.

VBS 2018 FINAL THOUGHTS:

We want to thank everyone who made this year's VBS such a success. Our kids and adult leaders spent a fun and exciting week learning how "All God's promises find their YES in Him." What a special week and a fabulous Sunday Celebration Worship and Fellowship!!!

Our Mission Project was "Water for Tanzania." Our kids with the support of our congregation collected \$500.00, which means 50 people will now have clean drinking water in Tanzania!!! 100% of the money collected goes directly to this mission. Thanks to all who supported this ministry and our kids.

FYI...2019 dates are the evenings of June 17-21 and the theme will be: Miraculous Mission: Jesus Saves the World.

UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONALS:

Upper Room Daily Devotionals are available in the basket near the podium at the back of the church. If you have not gotten your July/August issue, please pick one up today. We will let you know when the September/October issue is available.

SAFE SANCTUARY UPDATE:

The Faith Development Team recently revised our current Safe Sanctuary Policy to meet the Conference updated revisions. This will be presented to the Covenant Council @ the August meeting for final approval.

Our yearly Safe Sanctuary Meeting will be Saturday, September 8, @ 9:00-10:30 AM. All persons who work in any ministry/capacity throughout the year that serves kids, youth, or vulnerable adults should attend. This includes church staff, Covenant Council members, Sunday School classes, Choir, Kids Club, VBS, Youth Group, Christ's Pantry, Community Lunch, etc. serving September 1, 2018-September 1, 2019. (Any other church member or regular attendee is also welcome to attend.) Any questions please see Linda Paver or Pastor Sara.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT TEAM MEETING:

The FD Team has not scheduled any further meetings at this time. We will let everyone know when meetings resume.

CALENDAR DATES:

Women's Circle: Monday, August 20, Monday, September 17 @ 7:00 @ the church

Men's Share Group: alternate Thursdays @ 7:00 @ the church

Kids Club: Thursday, October 4, 3:40-5:30, 5:30-6:15 family dinner

Youth Group: 2nd Sunday of each month beginning Sunday September 9, 5:00pm-7:00pm

Covenant Council Meeting: Wednesday August 15th at 7 p.m.

SPRC and Charge Conference Meetings: With Roger Grace at RUMC Tuesday September 18, SPRC @ 6:30 and Charge Conference @7:30 (Times to be confirmed)

HOSPITALITY:

Sunday August 5th we are offering a special blessing to all our young ones returning to some form of higher education. It does not matter what year you are in or if you live at home, we want you to go with our blessing. Hospitality will present each one with a bag of goodies we have for them. Please let us know if you have some one who falls in this category.

September 30th is our 5th Sunday. Instead of a challenge we have decided to have a pot luck and hope to see some of the past winners show up with their dish, this time so we can enjoy with no judging. Our next meeting will be Wed. Sept. 19th, at 6:30 pm. We have many ways in which you can serve. If interested feel free to talk to any of us, members are Ginny Sparks, Helena Anderson, Sue Harmon, and Sharon Parker, Thank you for all the support you give us and a special Thank You to Pam Marshall and Jane Payne for helping on VBS Sunday.

YOUTH GROUP:

Youth Group will have their gatherings on the 2nd Sunday of each month, beginning Sunday September 9th from 5pm -7pm.

All youth in grades 5 through 12 are welcome to come join us in a fun fellowship. We will have food and drinks along with activities for all to enjoy. Any questions, please contact Pastor Sara at email pastorsaramcswords@gmail.com or Karla Wygle at email kwygle@gmail.com

KIDS CLUB:

We will be starting our 7th year of Kids Club on Thursday, October 4. We will be using this past summer's VBS lessons and some of the activities. More details will follow on our Facebook page, website, or Sunday bulletins. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Linda Paver, Vickie Ash, or Pastor Sara



Sign up: To receive announcements, the newsletter in full color or reminders about church calendar items.

Go to: www.raymondumc.net or Sign up via email or text